

Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Committee

Markup of H.R. ____, “21st Century Cures Act”

May 19, 2015

Thank you for the recognition, Mr. Chairman.

Today, we are considering an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the Committee Print for the 21st Century Cures Act – offered by Chairman Upton, and myself, along with Rep. DeGette, Ranking Members Pallone and Gene Green.

This marks the culmination of our Committee’s work on this year-long endeavor. We have had the privilege of engaging in a wide-ranging conversation with patients, caregivers, providers, innovators, investors, researchers and regulators in this very hearing room and at roundtables in my congressional district and around the country.

The legislation we will be sending to the House floor is the product of the valuable advice and specific ideas we received on how Congress can help accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of promising new treatments and cures.

It incorporates the voice of the patients into the regulatory decision making process and helps address their unmet medical needs; it builds the foundation for 21st Century medicine, empowering emerging scientists and fostering collaborative research in the process; it streamlines clinical trials; it supports continued innovation at our federal public health agencies; and it modernizes medical product regulation.

Not only will this bill bring hope to patients and their loved ones, but it is a resounding statement about our nation’s commitment to biomedical innovation. I congratulate my colleagues and our staff in preparing us for this important day and I look forward to presenting this bill to all of our colleagues in the House for their approval.

With that, I yield back.